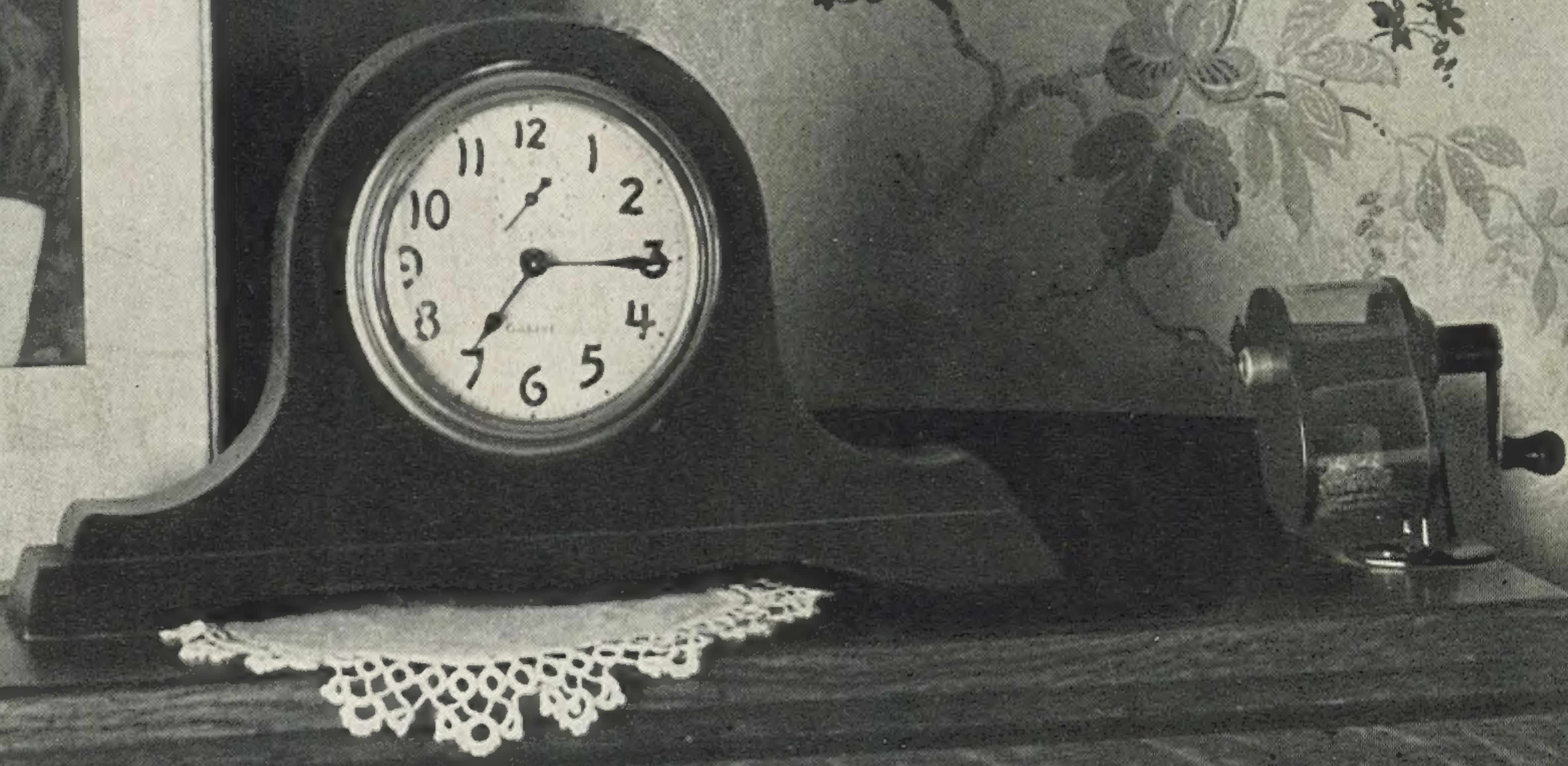


LIFE



7:15 IN A LEGIONNAIRE'S HOME

OCTOBER 4, 1937 **10** CENTS

WALLACE RAMSEYER, LEGIONNAIRE

Wallace Ramseyer is the Legionnaire whose dining room appears on the front cover of this issue. He lives in the town where he was born 41 years ago, Fairbury, Ill. (pop. 2,500) on the Toledo, Peoria & Western R. R. about 100 miles southwest of Chicago. He is vice commander of Fairbury's American Legion post.

The national convention is the Legion's one big blowout of the year, but people who know the Legion only by its conventions do not know much about the average Legionnaire. Of the Fairbury post's 150 members, only District Commander Ed Yeagle went to New York this year. While he and a gregarious fraction of the Legion frolicked, the Wallace Ramseyers stayed quietly home about their business.

Legionnaire Ramseyer earns a humdrum living as a rural mail carrier. But the things he really lives by are rich and satisfying—the memories of his War days and the comradeship of those days preserved in the American Legion.



In 1920, the year after he got back from the A.E.F., 24-year-old Wallace Ramseyer wooed & won Lottie Ricketts, a Fairbury farm girl. He had been a farm worker before the War.



Ramseyer's job is that of Fairbury rural mail carrier. He was three years settling down to it after the War. The hands with which he sorts mail still tremble from War shocks.



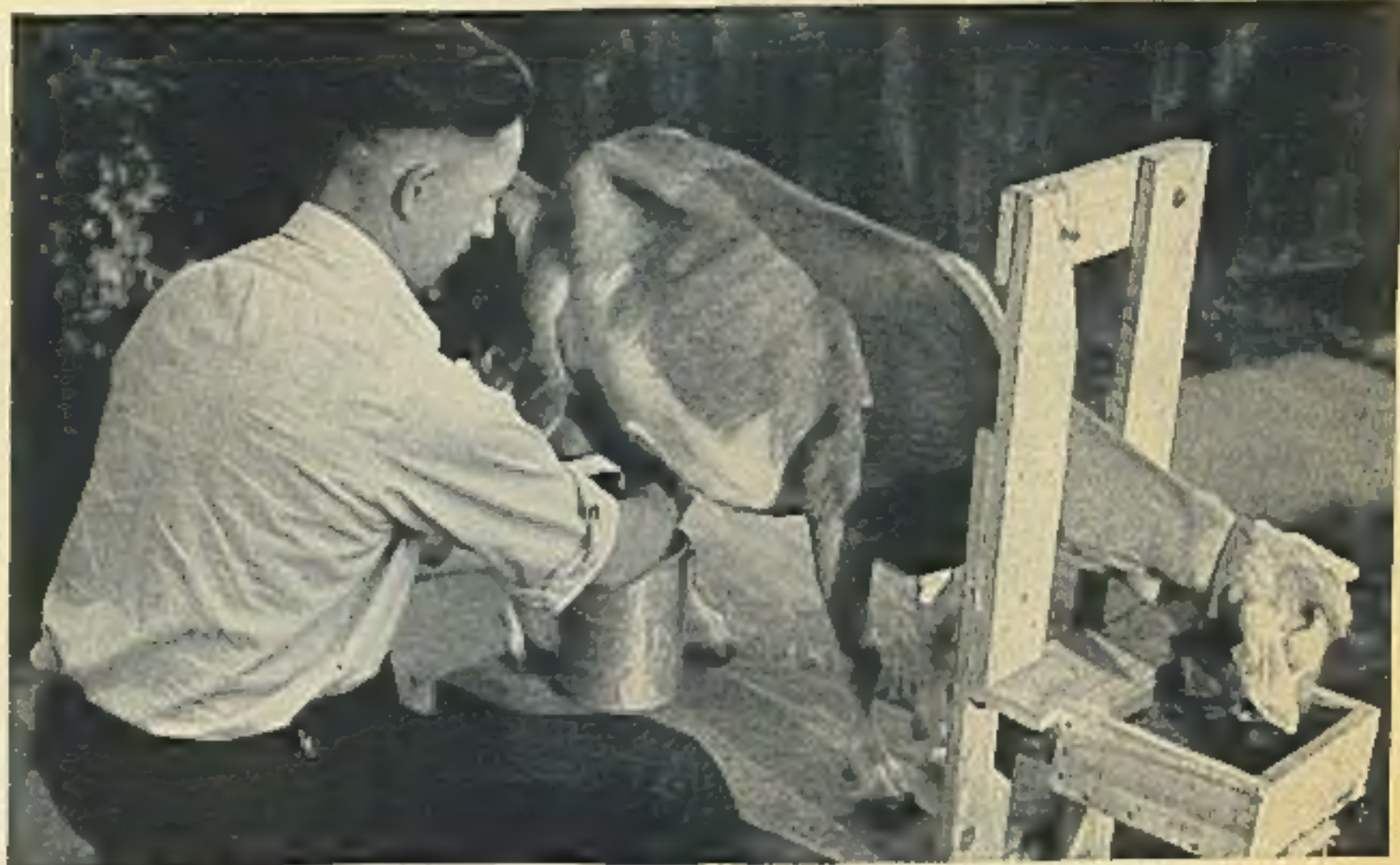
The Ramseyer family dines well off fruits and vegetables from their garden. Rosemary (facing) is a 14-year-old high-school freshman and Nina Lou, 11 (right), is in sixth grade.



This chromo record of Private Wallace Ramseyer's Wartime appearance and service still hangs over their stairway. He bought it for 25¢ at Camp Grant just before his discharge.



Ramseyer drives 34 miles a day on his route, gets \$1,880 a year and 5¢ a mile for his car. He finishes up by 12:30 p.m. in summer, 3 p.m. in winter, spends afternoons gardening.



Ramseyer has wanted a goat all his life. He bought this one last year on the excuse that Nina Lou's eczema might be caused by cow's milk. He milks the goat twice daily.



Legionnaire Ramseyer's House

The Ramseyers have always lived in rented houses. They pay \$15 a month for this eight-room, cream & brown one where they have been living for three

years. But soon they will be moving into their own home. It cost \$3,000. Wallace Ramseyer says he could not have bought it without his \$970 Bonus money.

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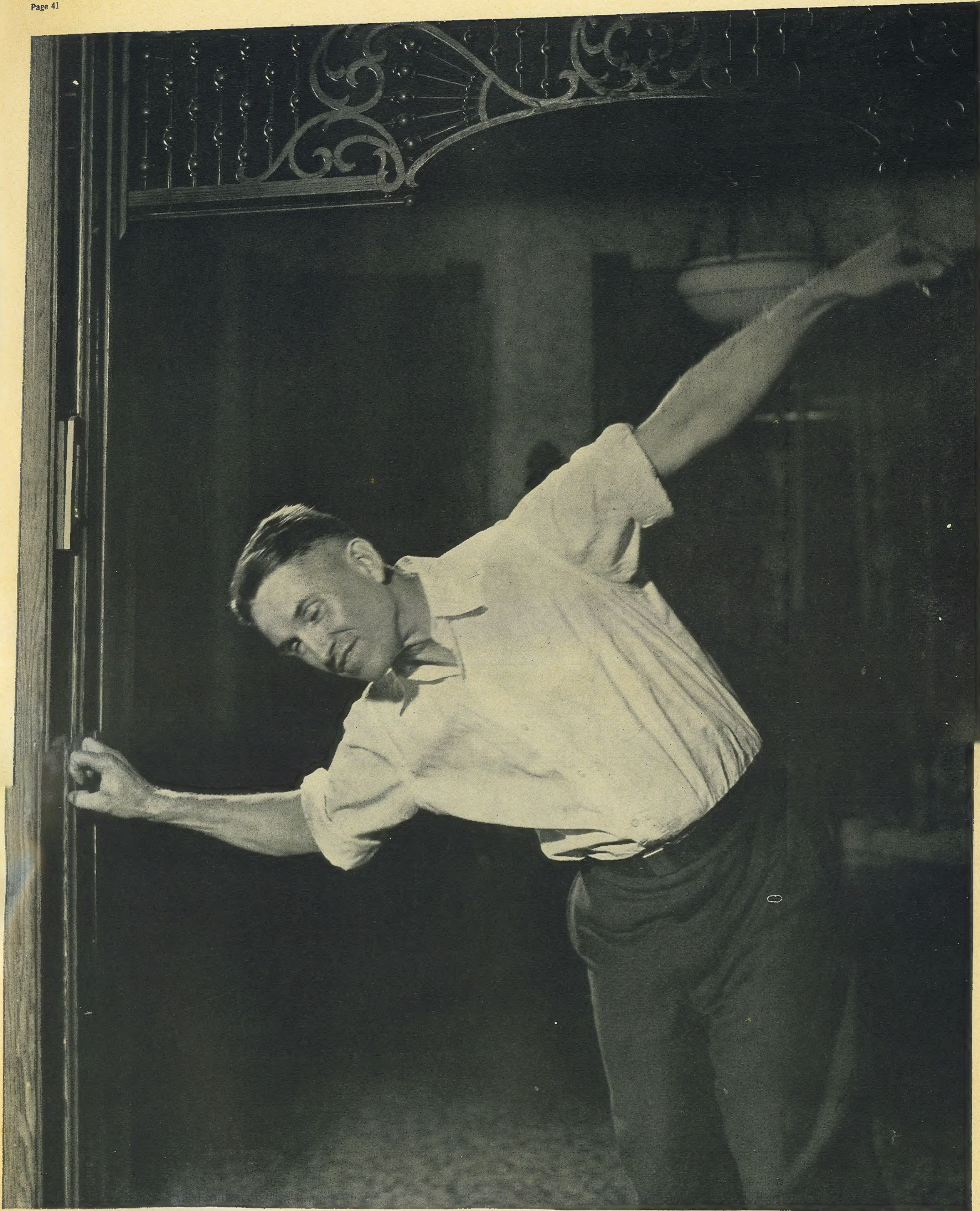
Almost every Sunday the Ramseyer family (*above*) goes to Fairbury's Presbyterian Church. Ramseyer is a Mason and Mrs. Ramseyer belongs to the Eastern Star. But they are chiefly devoted to their only other organizations, the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary.



Almost every family laying claim to small-town respectability gives its daughters piano lessons. Rosemary Ramseyer's teacher comes to Fairbury from Bloomington (35 miles) once a week, charges 75¢ per lesson. Rosemary also plays clarinet in her school band.



(L. TO R.) MRS. WALTER HENNING, LEGION POST COMMANDER'S WIFE; MRS. ED YEAGLE, DISTRICT COMMANDER'S WIFE; MRS. RAMSEYER



War Memories

Wallace Ramseyer does not drink. Above he is simply showing, for perhaps the 101st time, how he was slammed against the side of a 40 & 8 car while jouncing from Boulogne to Amiens during the War. His thumb was badly sprained. Near Mont St. Martin in the

Aisne-Marne sector he was hit by a shell one night, crawled a mile to town under fire, rode 50 miles sitting up in a jampacked ambulance. The wound hospitalized him for seven months, left a hole in his back as big as a teacup. He draws \$17 per month disability pay.

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First Fairbury man killed in the War was John Joda. To its heroes who came back and formed a Legion post which they named for him, Fairbury donated a downtown building.



The Fairbury Legion meets every other Monday night. About a third of the members, including Wallace Ramseyer (*second from right in front row*) who joined in 1919,

attend regularly. In towns of less than 10,000, where Legionnaires live, the Legion post is apt to be—as in Fairbury—not only the best club but the most active civic body.



DISTRICT COMMANDER ED YEAGLE (LEFT), WHO WENT TO THE NEW YORK CONVENTION, STOPS IN FOR A CHAT WITH THE RAMSEYERS AFTER LEGION MEETING



MEMBERS OF JOHN JODA POST No. 54 OPEN AND CLOSE EVERY MEETING WITH SALUTE TO THE COLORS. (U. S. FLAG AT RIGHT OF TABLE NOT SHOWN)



RAMSEYER'S WAR MEDALS: SERVICE (LEFT); PURPLE HEART (RIGHT)

The Fairbury Legion Speaks (ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT):

August Sieg, 42, painter & paper hanger: "I figure the Bonus was due us. It wasn't nothing that they gave us. They owed it to us. As for pensions, I don't know where they're getting the money but I think when a man gets old the Government should provide for him."

Perry J. Keck, 50, insurance agent: "There's no reason why we should get into a war in the Far East. I'd never again leave the country to fight. The Bonus was right. Thirty a month for War service wasn't enough."

Edward Yeagle, 41, garage mechanic (through his wife): "We've never discussed radicals or men like John L. Lewis and Hitler and Mussolini but I don't suppose Ed would be in favor of them. Do you?"

Clayton Hetherington, 46 (behind Yeagle), Legion post janitor: "Pensions should be given to ex-soldiers. A guy over 40 can't get a job."

Wallace Ramseyer: "The Bonus was a just debt. But I don't believe in pensions except for the disabled. This country is pretty sure to get into another war. Just let one of our merchant marines get bombed in the Far East and there'll be the devil to pay. I wouldn't want to go again but I probably would. Protect your country and you protect your home."

Jacob Peters, 44, trucker and welder: "Something's got to be done to stop the radicals. Do it before they get too hot."

Ruben Fuller, 45 (second row, with glasses), mailman: "I got \$1,570 Bonus money. I didn't need it but as long as it was there I took it. I would rather have taken a pension later like the Civil War veterans got."

William Callaby, 48, farmer: "I think Roosevelt is a wonderful man. Them Wall Street fellows aren't going to pull Roosevelt into war."